

All Around Pennsauken



Happy
Valentines
Day

VOL. 22, NO. 2

A Publication for the Community of Pennsauken

February 2017

SENIORCORNER

AARP Tax Help For Seniors Runs Through April 13

New Processes Require Residents To Bring Additional Materials

By Sonny DiSabato, Senior Citizen Coordinator

Hello fellow seniors.

The Pennsauken Free Public Library will once again be hosting AARP Tax Help sessions. This free service will be available in the Library's Community Room, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Tax help began on Feb. 1 and will end on April 13. This is first come, first served and priority is given to seniors.

There are some important changes to this year's process that residents need to be made aware of. New computer software does not allow tax preparers to pull up past returns. Residents taking advantage of this service need to bring last year's completed return with them. In addition, residents will need to bring a photo ID, their social security card, and the social security information of any dependents.

As this is a different process this year with new software, some issues could occur during tax preparation. Folks should expect some delays as tax preparers and residents get used to the new system. With a little bit of patience and understanding, things should work out just fine.

Tips For Staying Healthy During The Winter

Winter and senior citizens aren't a great
continued on page 10

Township Committee Holds Reorganization Meeting

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

An annual rite for Pennsauken's municipal government, the Township once again held its reorganization meeting on Jan. 4, swearing in its newly-elected officers and selecting the organization's leadership for 2017. This year's function, held at the Pennsauken Country Club, saw the return of some familiar faces and the selection of the second woman mayor in the Township's history.

Mayor, Deputy Mayor Sworn In, Re-elected Officials Take Oath Of Office

Betsy McBride took the oath of office to become the second woman in Pennsauken's history to be sworn in as mayor. Her husband, Superior Court

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Township Committeewoman Betsy McBride took the oath of office to become the second woman in Pennsauken's history to be sworn in as mayor. Her husband, Superior Court Judge Edward J. McBride, officiated.

Pennsauken Township Turns 125 This Month



By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

On February 18, 1892, the State of New Jersey officially created the municipality known as Pennsauken Township. A lot has changed in Pennsauken during the last 125 years: the population has boomed to over 35,000 people from diverse cultures and

backgrounds; over the last six years, businesses have invested over \$100 million into the community; the town was identified as one of the top 40 commuter cities in New Jersey, with access to several major highways and three train stations; and has been home to professional athletes, prominent educators, successful business people, talented artists, and dedicated public servants.

To celebrate Pennsauken's past, as well as to get excited about the Township's future, a variety of events are being planned as part of a year-long, community-wide celebration.

"Pennsauken has a rich heritage that's worthy of celebration," says Pennsauken Mayor Betsy McBride. "We look forward to our neighbors coming together to recognize our town's 125th birthday."

backgrounds; over the last six years, businesses have invested over \$100 million into the community; the town was identified as one of the top 40 commuter cities in New Jersey, with access to several major highways and three train stations; and has been home to professional athletes, prominent educators, successful business people, talented artists, and dedicated public servants.

To kick off this year of celebration, Mayor McBride will issue a special proclamation on Sunday, Feb. 8, 12:30 p.m. at the Pennsauken Free Public Library, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd. During the event, Pennsauken native and Food Network star Al DiBartolo of DiBartolo Bakery will be on hand to cut the first piece of the "birthday cake" specifically designed for the occasion; pieces of cake will be handed out free to residents until it runs out.

The Township plans to celebrate Pennsauken's milestone anniversary in a variety of ways in the coming months. Here's what's being planned so far:

- The Merchantville-Pennsauken Water

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Look!
inside

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For Police Dogs
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Application For
Dog Licenses
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Are You Missing
A Ring?
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FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Drumline And Color Guard Home Show

Pennsauken High School's Independent Drumline and Color Guard are performing their annual "Home Show" on Saturday, Feb. 4, 3:00 p.m., at Pennsauken High School, 800 Hylton Rd. Held at the main gym, tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and children ages 10 and under. Tickets sold at the door.

Town Watch

Pennsauken's Town Watch hosts its next meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. at the Pennsauken Police Department, Second Floor. Come learn how to make our community safer. For more information, call (856) 488-0080 ext. 2417.

American Legion

American Legion Fredrick W. Griggs Post 68 will meet on Thursday, Feb. 9 at 7:00 p.m. These monthly meetings are held at the Merchantville Community Center, 212 Somerset Ave. in Merchantville. All veterans who served during qualifying conflicts are welcome to join. The Post now has an Auxiliary Unit which meets at 6:00 p.m., prior to the Post meeting. Any ladies who are the spouse or the daughter of a veteran are welcome to join.

Dance For LOVE

Heart to Heart, a Merchantville-based non-profit that offers transformative education in jails, prisons, and communities, is hosting the "Dance for LOVE" fundraising event on Friday, Feb. 10, 7:00 to 10:00 p.m., at Marco's at the Pennsauken Country Club, 3800 Haddonfield Rd. Dance to DJ Double W's music; tune up your line dancing skills with instructors Bob and Lorraine; and enjoy "dine and dance" food. Cash bar is also offered. Tickets are \$50 per person. For more information contact Bobbi Daniels at (856) 406-6153 or bd.heart2heart@gmail.com.

AARP Meeting

Pennsauken AARP Chapter 2861 will hold its next meeting on Monday, Feb. 13, at the PYAA Field House, 3501 Elm Ave. Fellowship time is at 12:30 p.m.; meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. A reminder for members that it's time to pay your annual dues. Be sure to bring both your national and local AARP membership cards.

Flea Market

Saint Peter's annual flea market will be held on Saturday, Feb. 18 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the church's Pastor's

Hall, 43 W. Maple Ave., Merchantville. This fun event features interesting items and lots of food. Vendor spots are just \$20 and include a table. For more information, call Jo at (856) 667-5237.

Junior Fightin' Irish Banquet

The Junior Fightin' Irish Football and Cheerleading is holding its first annual banquet on Sunday, Feb. 19, 12:30 p.m., at Pennsauken Country Club, 3800 Haddonfield Rd. Dress to impress – the event will feature a mock red carpet event; young ladies and gentlemen should be looking sharp! The last opportunity to purchase tickets will be held on Friday, Feb. 3, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., at the practice field in front of the playground. Prices are \$25 for adults, \$12 for children ages 12 and under. For more information, visit "Jr. Fightin' Irish Football & Cheer" on Facebook.

Fairytale Tea Party

Pennsauken High School's cast of the spring musical, "The Wedding Singer," will host a whimsical fairytale tea party on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Pennsauken High School cafeteria, 800 Hylton Rd. Some of your favorite fairytale characters and pirates will interact with guests and be available for photo opportunities. Kids are encouraged to dress up like their favorite characters and enjoy games, sing-alongs, other activities and more. Cakes, cookies, brownies, juice, tea, hot chocolate, and more will be served. Tickets will be

sold at the door and are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 10 and under.

Mall Walk For The Homeless

First Presbyterian Church of Merchantville, through the Interfaith Homeless Outreach Council (IHOC), is helping to co-sponsor the Mall Walk for the Homeless on Sunday, Feb. 26 at Voorhees Town Center (formerly Echelon Mall). Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. and the walk starts at 2:30 p.m. Proceeds will go to help homeless people, including providing transportation for IHOC's Homeless Hospitality Network and maintenance of IHOC's transitional homes in Lawnside. For more information, contact Rhoda Wus at (856) 939-0182 or e-mail ihoc_info@aol.com.

High School Reunion

Pennsauken High School's classes of 1962 and 1963 are holding a reunion on Saturday, April 22, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Marco's Restaurant at the Pennsauken Country Club, 3800 Haddonfield Rd. Cost is \$40 per person, \$75 per couple. Make checks payable to "PHS Class of '62" or "PHS Class of '63," based on the attendee's graduating class. Payments should be sent to Norma Pearlstein Kamis '63 at 2337 Finlaw Ave., Pennsauken, N.J., 08109 by Wednesday, March 1. For questions, contact Norma at (856) 662-7916 or e-mail normatrack@verizon.net.

Annual Irish Nite Fundraiser Held On March 4



Ballinà will be the musical entertainment at Mary Queen of All Saints' annual Irish Nite, held on Saturday, Mar. 4 from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m.

Mary, Queen of All Saints Parish is hosting its annual Irish Nite fundraiser on Saturday, March 4 from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. at Msgr. Kavanagh Hall, 48th St. and Camden Ave., Pennsauken. The event, which is BYOB, features an evening of great food and fun. Irish music provided by Ballinà; beer

and set-ups are provided.

Tickets are \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door. Tables of 10 or more can be reserved. Proceeds go directly to support the parish's annual expenses.

For more information, or to order tickets, call (856) 662-2721.

MAYOR'S "Pennsauken Proud" To Be Your Mayor For 2017

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By Betsy McBride,
Mayor of
Pennsauken
Township

I was humbled to be sworn in as your Mayor on Jan. 4. This is a one-year appointment made within the Township Committee. I thank my colleagues and ask for your

support.

My husband and I moved to Pennsauken 27 years ago and bought our first home, which was built in 1894 and was the original Collins Tract School House, lovingly restored. I drive around town and enjoy seeing all the different styles of homes and unique neighborhoods. I am particularly fond of those built around the same time Pennsauken was incorporated, the old three-story Victorians over 100 years old; but there are housing styles for all families of every shape and size. From apartments to two-story colonials, and everything in between, Pennsauken offers a variety of options for residents to

call home.

My family loved Pennsauken from the start. We enjoyed the many parks, the pool, Pennsauken Youth Athletic Activities, and Tippin's Pond, where our son got too close to a snapping turtle that wouldn't let go of his finger.

We still enjoy Pennsauken's proximity to many other towns, its access to local highways, and the three train stations in town. Have you taken the train from the Pennsauken Transit Center on Derousse Ave.? This best kept secret is beautifully designed with stained glass tributes to the women who made history in Pennsauken, and will get you to Atlantic City, 30th Street Station in Philly, Trenton

and the Camden waterfront.

As we begin this month of February in the year of 2017, I look forward to enjoying with you our year-long celebration of Pennsauken's 125th birthday. This is a perfect time to show off, share stories about our history, and highlight our community's many assets. We can all take part in efforts to clean, green, and beautify our town and show our Pennsauken Pride.

I encourage you to be informed and involved. Watch Channel 19, read this paper, visit the Township's web site, like our Facebook page, and bring your ideas and suggestions to us.

I also want all residents to be aware

that I have started a new initiative: "Meet with the Mayor." Each Wednesday, I will be at the Municipal Building to meet with residents. Appointments are necessary, but this is your opportunity to tell me what you like about Pennsauken and where you think we can make improvements. You may call (856) 665-1000 x152 to make an appointment.

I look forward to meeting with you. I wish you all a great start to 2017 and happy 125th anniversary to Pennsauken. May this year be one of hope and pride in our wonderful community.

Many blessings are wished for you and yours.

Kneib New Administrator Of Pennsauken Township

John Kneib, who served on Township Committee last year as Pennsauken's mayor, has stepped down from his elected position to become the town's administrator. In this role, Kneib oversees the day-to-day operations of the town, coordinating the activities of various Township departments.

"We thank John for his time on Township Committee and continue to work together to better our community," says Pennsauken Mayor Betsy McBride. "With his many years of experience both in the business world and public office, John is uniquely qualified to be Pennsauken's administrator."

Kneib is a 30-plus year Pennsauken resident who had served on Township Committee since 2007. Prior to his new position, John was a self-employed financial planner with offices in Cherry Hill, N.J. and Huntington Valley, Pa.



Kneib

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PENNSAUKEN FEBRUARY PUBLIC MEETINGS

Township Committee
5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1, 15 and 22

Zoning Board of Adjustment
7:00 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1 and 15

Planning Board
6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 7 and 28

Meetings are open to the public
and are held at the
Pennsauken Municipal Building
5605 N. Crescent Blvd.
(At the corner of Route 130 and
Merchantville Avenue)



WAGSWORLD A Growing Bucket List, A Shrinking Supply Of Cookies

By Bob Wagner,
AAP Columnist

I'm sitting at the dining room table, my most comfortable writing space, looking both forward and backward. The holidays are officially over, as the New Year unwraps in front of me. I've been mulling over the past few years, which have been racing by with such speed I can hardly keep up. The girly girls, topic of many a column over the last decade, are in high school. The twins are "eightish," rapidly embracing the electronic age. Miss Megan will soon be a teenager, and didn't get one toy for Christmas, just lots of clothes, earrings, and, good lord, makeup. The Robster's

dog was here for a holiday visit, sporting a grey muzzle and distinct limp. Somehow, the pup has become nine years old. My sweet baboo, the princess bride, celebrated her 19th wedding anniversary, which I know is a physical impossibility, since I was 19 just a few short years ago.

I've decided from all this nostalgic angst that what I need most right now is not a new hip, knee, prostate, or memory. It is better brakes! Life is going by way too fast. With all I have left that I want to do, I need to slow time down to a manageable speed so I can get some new stuff finished, before I am finished,

The bucket list, instead of getting nibbled down, is growing. I thoroughly enjoyed planning the fishing trip; taking the

trip; and sharing silliness with my friends and the bride. Problem being, I came up with three more items to put on my list while finishing off the fishing trip. Mathematically advancing at this rate, I'll need to live another 35 years. Who knows how or when I'll stop coming up with "unfinished business?"

All this talk of things to do this coming year has stirred up a huge appetite; and since my dining room table is mere feet away from my kitchen, I believe I will ease over there and eat another small bucket of leftover Christmas cookies. The sight of all the various cookie containers moves me to grump again about not being allowed near the kitchen for months. The bride and sweet baboo chased me out numerous times pre-Christmas, and even up to New Year's, with dire warnings about death and dismemberment if I ate the cookies. The giveaway list for the Wagners' famous cookie trays involves hundreds of friends, family, school associates, businesses, workmen and women, and possibly complete strangers. I am not on this list. Weeks later, as the holidays recede, dust gathers on ornaments and Nativity

scenes; only then am I allowed to graze on the leftovers not given away. There are many pounds of cookies left. Just not the ones I like best. I have tried to fool the bride and daughter by changing my list of favorites each year, hoping to gain access to my true faves, but I have not the skills. The required straight face needed to pull off such a move eludes me. I will just put up with lemony, nutty, peanut buttery leftovers, with a smattering of sugar cookies and small, broken chocolate chips. It is, I must admit, quite a good problem to have.

After this column is finished, along with 20 or so cookies, I intend to sit here, pen in hand, and start a new book. My laziness has no boundaries, but I feel the need to at least attempt a start. I don't know on what yet, or even who. I just know it is time. To all of you out there who are now smiling, knowing my penchant for false starts, know this. You may very well be in the next book. I believe you know who you are. Don't feign surprise down the road. However, in a moment of charity, I just might change names to protect the innocent.

Or, maybe not.

Pennsauken Lions Club Collects Eyeglasses For Those In Need

Why is there a white mailbox by the entrance to the Pennsauken Township Municipal Complex on Merchantville Ave.?

No longer an active postal receptacle, the large white mailbox that people see is for donations of old, unneeded eyeglasses.

In just about any home, one can find a pair of eyeglasses that are no longer being used. That same pair of eyeglasses can change another person's life. The Pennsauken Lions Club collects these glasses and sends them to a regional Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centers (LERCs), where they are cleaned, sorted by prescription strength, and packaged. These recycled glasses are then distributed to people in need from low and middle income communities.

As you start to do your spring cleaning, and you find old, unwanted glasses, please remove them from the case, place them in a plastic bag to protect them, and deposit them into the white mailbox. The LERC does not want the cases, nor will it accept sunglasses.

The Pennsauken Lions sort the glasses they get in the white box, remove cases and clean out broken glasses or sunglasses. They bring these eyeglasses to quarterly sight meetings.

A few pieces of mail have been found in the box and the Lions mailed them in a proper mailbox. They only check the box quarterly, so they want to remind people this is NOT a real, active mailbox; any mail residents mistakenly deposited there will sit until the box is checked.

The Lions Club is open to anyone 18 or older who would like to be of service to the Pennsauken Community. Anyone interested should contact Pennsaukenlionsclub@gmail.com.

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Students Raise Over \$4,500 To Buy Kevlar Vests For Police Dogs

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

Two students started a service project that raised over \$4,500 in just over a month to provide Kevlar vests for Pennsauken police dogs.

Dylan Esser and James Sivley are seventh graders at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Moorestown. They founded "Kevlar for Kanines" as a way to protect the four-legged officers who protect our community.

"Dogs are big part of our life. We have four at home," explains Dylan, whose parents, Mark and Kathy, run Rothman Animal Hospital, the veterinary office that takes care of Pennsauken's K9 dogs. "I was talking to my dad about how the police have vests, but do they have them for the dogs? The dogs are going out there without any protection. I can't stand to see animals get hurt."

Dylan enlisted his good friend James into the project and tied it into a school program. Our Lady of Good Counsel has a "Just Do It" initiative, run by one of their teachers, Mrs. Steel, which encourages students to be philanthropic and give back to the com-



Dylan Esser and James Sivley, seventh graders at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Moorestown, raised over \$4,500 to buy Kevlar vests for Pennsauken's K9 dogs.

munity. The boys made a YouTube video about their cause, enlisted their fellow students' help, and quickly raised enough money to purchase four Kevlar vests.

"I think this is quite amazing," says James. "I didn't think anybody our age could do this. It's pretty cool."

On Jan. 19, members of the Penn-

sauken Police were on hand at Our Lady of Good Counsel for a special check presentation. Officer Craig Adair also ran some drills with his partner, K9 Maverick, for the enjoyment of the excited students.

"I'm humbled by this endeavor that Dylan and James have undertaken to raise this money for K9 vests," says Officer Joe Hurley, who addressed attendees at the assembly. "It's a

phenomenal feat. It's amazing."

The boys aren't done with helping K9 dogs. Both have future plans to continue to raise funds to provide Kevlar vests for K9 dogs in other local police forces.

"Maybe we can take this to a bigger level," says Dylan. "We want to grow this locally and maybe nationally someday."

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Streamlining The Abandoned/Vacant Property Process, Making It Easier

By Tracey Howarth,
Pennsauken Township

One of the goals for the Township's vacant property program was to streamline and simplify the whole process from beginning to end. Well, we have just about completed that goal.

The first step in the process is vacant property registration. Getting a vacant property registered, as long as we know who owns the property and where to locate them, is not difficult. It's when those two very important pieces of information are missing that things get difficult. That's where Community Champions comes into the picture. This software helps to identify and locate that critical information. Once we have identified who owns the property, we can then begin to understand what the intentions of the owner are in getting the property occupied.

The next step is to move the property forward through all available legal channels and getting it on the road to occupation. To do that, Pennsauken has to have the property designated as abandoned. We have developed a one-page, simple form that will provide the courts with all the information they require to declare a property abandoned. This form is a product of research and partnership, leveraging Pennsauken's code department, tax office, the Township Clerk, the Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission, PSE&G, and the United States Post Office, as well as resident feedback.

Once legally declared abandoned, the Township can move forward to getting the property occupied. In order for the Township to take over a property, we must first present to the courts a plan for the property; the financing to support the plan; and a timeline to completion. We

are working extremely hard to keep the cost of this program expense neutral; an option for making this possible is for the Township to designate an "agent," otherwise known as a contractor. We've developed simple eligibility qualifications for any contractor who may want to get into the business of turning these properties around. In addition, each of these "agents" is held to the same planning standard as the Township. To date, we have heard from approximately six contractors who have shown interest in the program. Each of these companies will receive the qualifying information and have a deadline to provide the necessary documentation. Once that documentation has been reviewed, all of the qualifying contractors will be notified and provided a vacant property packet and a meeting date. So if you know of a contractor who would like to get involved with the program, or you are an interested contractor, please feel free to reach out to me at (856) 665-1000 ext. 145. I will be happy to ensure you are put on the mailing list of potential partners.

Our code department plays a key role in the occupation of these properties. Gary Burgin, our Township's construction official, has proposed a simplified inspection process that will identify any "big ticket" cost factors for our contractors prior to them showing interest in any particular property. They are the

items that have the largest cost to rehabilitating a property. This inspection is meant to eliminate any surprises for the investor or contractor to the best of the Township's ability. When a property is designated as abandoned, our inspectors will use this process to inspect the property for all large cost deficiencies or violations; that information will be shared with our contractors so that they can make an informed decision regarding their investment. This is a big step. It's important for us to work together to get these properties occupied as quickly as possible. Our code department is essential to providing these contractors not just with the most up-to-date information possible on any property we are offering for rehabilitation, but also a list of any permits that may be required to correct any known deficiencies.

The housing resale inspection will remain as an additional layer of protection for the home buyer. Once a property is ready to be sold, the inspectors will do a final run through of the property to ensure that the potential home buyer is fully informed and to identify any further issues that may need to be addressed. At that point, it is between the buyer and seller to agree on whom will remedy the remaining issues.

The last part of this process is ensuring that the folks and families interested in purchasing these properties are fully

vested and have a solid understanding of home ownership. We have put together a certification program for those individuals or families that are interested in purchasing one of these properties. As people complete the certification process, they will be put on a list of potential home buyers. That list will be provided to the real estate agents handling the sale of any of these properties.

Home ownership is not the same as renting. Maybe you're a first time home buyer and have no background in home ownership. This class will take you from financing to remodeling. It will share with you all the great things our Township has to offer and how you can become an active member of the community. It will also teach you how to budget for those "fun" unexpected issues that occur in exactly the wrong time.

From start to finish, the Township has developed a program that puts everything you may need to know or understand regarding vacant properties in one place and made it as simple as possible to get through each step. As we have said, our goal is to get these properties identified, maintained and occupied. That was, is, and remains our top priority.

As always, if you have any questions, please reach out by calling (856) 665-1000 ext. 145.

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Flavorfest Held On February 22 At Double Nickel Brewing Company

Big Brothers Big Sisters Independence Region (BBBS Independence) is excited to announce its newest South Jersey fundraising event, FlavorFest 2017, which will be held at Double Nickel Brewing Company, 1585 North Rt. 73, Pennsauken, on Wednesday, Feb. 22 from 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.; a special tour for VIP ticket holders begins at 5:30 p.m. that evening.

FlavorFest 2017 will be a foodie extravaganza, featuring some of the best restaurants and caterers in South Jersey, such as Seasons 52, The Melting Pot, Monsoon, and Ms Dawn's Catering. The event will include a robust food sampling; Double Nickel craft beers (one beer token included with ticket); games; silent auction; photo booth; and 50/50 raffle. Eat, drink and be merry, while helping to raise money to provide caring and compassionate mentors for youth in the South Jersey community.



FlavorFest attendees can look forward to a silent auction with exciting items up for bids, including a family fun pack for five at International Sports Center; a thrilling twin engine plane ride out of Flying W Airport; a basket of goodies from Carlo's Bakery; a Double Nickel Brewing Company event room rental; Betsey Johnson tote bag; Family Jeweler gift card; and much more.

"FlavorFest 2017 is a fun way to bring our mission to the communities we serve," says Marcus Allen, CEO, BBBS Independence. "We are very fortunate to have some of South Jersey's best restaurants and caterers associated with our cause. This event will help raise the critical funds necessary to provide positive role models for our local youth, help build their futures, and strengthen our communities."

Ticket prices range from \$50 to \$100. VIP ticket holders are invited to come at 5:30 p.m. for a private tour of the brewery; general admission starts at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are available online at classy.org/flavorfest. Donations and sponsorships are also accepted. Support for FlavorFest 2017 will allow BBBS Independence to serve children facing adversity in Burlington, Camden and Gloucester Counties.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Independ-

ence Region is a donor-supported organization that enriches, encourages and empowers children to reach their highest potential through safe, one-to-one mentoring relationships. Volunteering as a Big Brother or Big Sister is about making a measurable difference in a child's life by sharing new perspectives and experiences. Serving Chester, Delaware,

Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties in Pa and Burlington, Camden and Gloucester Counties in N.J., nearly 4,000 children annually are more successful socially and academically because of the work of Big Brothers Big Sisters Independence Region.

For more information, visit IndependenceBigs.org.

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Mayors McBride, Brennan To Speak At Next PMAC Meeting

Pennsauken Mayor Betsy McBride and Merchantville Mayor Ted Brennan will be the guest speakers at the networking luncheon of the Pennsauken-Merchantville Area

Chamber of Commerce, held on Wednesday, Feb. 8 at the Pennsauken Country Club, 3800 Haddonfield Rd. Sign-in begins at 11:30 a.m. on Feb. 8, with the meeting starting at 12 noon. Ad-

mission is \$20 per person. Attendees are asked to R.S.V.P. to Nancy Ellis at (856) 438-0833 or pmac1team@gmail.com by Monday, Feb. 6.



Pennsauken Mayor Betsy McBride and Merchantville Mayor Ted Brennan will be the guest speakers at the PMAC networking luncheon on Feb. 8.

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Arnold's Safe & Lock Holds Contest For Town's 125th Anniversary

Longtime Pennsauken business Arnold's Safe & Lock is getting into the 125th anniversary spirit, and you could be \$125 richer because of it.

Arnold's Safe & Lock, located at 3615 Haddonfield Rd., has placed \$125, a dollar for each year Pennsauken's been in existence, inside a locked Gardall microwave safe. Customers can stop by the store during normal business hours to test their luck. If you can guess the combination, the \$125 is yours. Participants have three chances per day to try and win. The contest runs throughout the entire month of February.

Showroom hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; and



If you can guess the combination to a safe like this one at Arnold's Safe & Lock in Pennsauken, you can win \$125, a dollar for each year the Township's been in existence.

Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For more information, visit ArnoldsLock.com.

Seminar On March 16 Helps Families Save For College

Paying for college is a major concern for families. According to data from U.S. News and World Report, the average tuition and fees of attending a private college in for the 2016-2017 school year is \$33,635, a more than three percent increase from last year. While significantly less, even attending a public, in-state school is pricey, with an average cost of \$9,130 this year. And the average total debt of 2015 graduates who took out loans was \$29,411. It's getting harder and harder to save for college; and many

families don't know where to begin.

A special seminar, "How to Pay for College," hopes to change that. Held on Thursday, March 16, 7:00 p.m. at the Pennsauken Country Club, 3800 Haddonfield Rd., this free event covers the fundamentals of funding college, distilling the complicated world of scholarships, grants, work-study, and student loans into the basics that every family needs to know.

For more information, e-mail sjedu101@gmail.com or call (856) 438-0102.



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PMAC1team@gmail.com

Pennsauken-Merchantville Area Chamber Of Commerce (P.M.A.C.)
P.O. Box 1133, Merchantville, New Jersey 08109

Pennsauken Township: Old And New In 1892

By Robert Fisher-Hughes, AAP Columnist and Amateur Historian

Pennsauken, as a legal municipal entity known as a township, was born by act of the New Jersey State Legislature on February 18, 1892. Although Pennsauken (or Pensauken, Pindasenaken, or any of the myriad other European spellings and misspellings of the Lenape word that names our town) existed in one way or another long before our township was created, the year 1892 represents a milestone, in that a separate and distinct community came into being that continues to represent the aspirations and problems of our families and friends; blocks, streets and neighbor-

LOOKING BACK IN HISTORY

hoods; and our civic and literal ancestors and descendants.

Before the creation of Pennsauken Township in 1892, our geographic community had been part of the English colonial and American townships of Waterford, Delaware, and Stockton, in both old Gloucester and Camden Counties. Long before that, the word that we spell and pronounce as "Pennsauken" was used to name a Lenape village and a creek that flowed near that village. Informally, the areas settled by colonists along

that creek also came to be called "Pennsauken," and later groups of citizens who took up residence as a small community in the area today marked by Park, Union, and Maple avenues, established the village known as "Pensauken," long before the founding of the larger township.

It was as part of Waterford that our area was settled by colonists, won national independence, and grew as a part of a new nation. Our area was part of Waterford Township longer than it has held any other municipal identity, from 1695 to 1844. Waterford Township, of which we were once a part, still survives and governs its portion of Camden County to this day.

As part of Delaware Township, our sparsely populated rural communities watched the nation grow through industrial development and by stretching across the continent after the war with Mexico. However, our communities also

watched the storm clouds of slavery and secession grow darker and more threatening during this period of 1844 to 1859.

It was as a part of the new township of Stockton that our civic ancestors lived through the ordeal of the Civil War, emancipation, assassination, and aftermath. In the decades after that conflict, veterans and heroes returned to farms and businesses and witnessed rapid economic and technological change outstrip the slow and painful pace of social change and reform. Immigration and assimilation, rampant capitalism and labor agitation, racial injustice and severe gender strictures prevailed through the period and long after.

By 1892, the laws that decided how townships functioned in New Jersey were outmoded, with annual township meetings making crucial decisions in a most democratic but also a most cumbersome and ineffectual manner. Township committees had little power, other than

to serve as fiscal watchdogs over the few elected office-holders with narrowly defined duties; overseers of the poor, assessors and collectors of taxes, supervisors of road districts, clerk of the township, constables, etc. The New Jersey laws of township government had not been comprehensively reformed since 1846.

This form of local government could only exacerbate disparities within broader communities that developed in different ways and at different rates. Much of Stockton bordering the thriving city of Camden had far different needs and interests than the farmers and laborers of the larger part of the township.

The New Jersey Legislature passed the act creating Pennsauken Township as a separate and distinct entity in February, 1892. The act provided for the commissioners and representatives of both the remaining Stockton and the

continued on page 23

Channel 19 Pennsauken Television To Air "Throwback Thursdays"

As part of the Township's celebration of Pennsauken's 125th anniversary, Channel 19 Pennsauken Television is going into its archives for "Throwback Thursdays."

Every Thursday throughout 2017, Pennsauken Television will air a variety of shows and programming from the channel's history.

"It's great to take a look back to see how Channel 19's programming has evolved," says Ryan Wachter, township director for Pennsauken Television. "We've got some real gems that will be airing on Thursdays."

This "retro" programming will be broadcast throughout the day on Thursdays, allowing viewers several opportunities to watch. In addition, "Throwback Thursdays" will be combined with new programming that will be announced in the coming weeks.

"We hope that this look back, as well as our new shows, will help with Pennsauken's 125th anniversary celebration," adds Wachter.

For more information, be sure to visit PennsaukenTV.com or "Pennsauken Television" on Facebook.



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Pennsauken Township Turns 125 This Month continued from page 1

Commission is installing a special 125th anniversary logo on its three million-gallon water tank, located on the corner of Park Ave. and Haddonfield Rd.

- Special banners commemorating Pennsauken's 125th anniversary, which can be hung inside or outside of area busi-

nesses, are being offered to companies for purchase.

- As part of the Friends of the Pennsauken Free Public Library 10th annual Art Show and Sale this April, the organization is asking for submissions with a "Pennsauken" theme

- The Township is looking into having a marching band-only parade, date to be determined, with high schools from across our region participating

- A special "Pennsauken-opoly" game, filled with Township landmarks, is being developed as a keepsake for residents

- Banners with the 125th anniversary logo will line Westfield Ave. for the entire year

- The Pennsauken Historical Society is working to create a special retrospective on the town's history, details to be forthcoming

- "Our Town," the 1950s-era film that

highlighted Pennsauken, will be aired on Channel 19; in addition, a new video, "Our Town... Today," will be produced by Pennsauken Television

- Pennsauken High School's Chorus will be performing a vocal tribute to the Township, singing popular songs from a variety of different eras

As a signature event, the Township is also planning a gigantic community-wide celebration on Saturday, June 10. This event is not just for current residents; this party, filled with family-friendly entertainment, delicious food offerings and musical performances, is also a "homecoming" for those who

have moved away from town.

"We hope that both past and present residents join us for what should be a great party," says Bill Orth, Pennsauken Township committeeman. "While Feb. 18 is the actual date, holding a community-wide celebration in June enables many more of our neighbors and friends to enjoy the festivities"

All Around Pennsauken will be your source for information about events commemorating the town's 125th anniversary. In addition, each month will feature a look back at Pennsauken, including classic photos and special articles. The Township will also be providing additional details via social media and online at www.twp.pennsauken.nj.us/content/125-years.

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AARP Tax Help For Seniors Runs Through April 13 continued from page 1

combination, but we shouldn't resign ourselves to becoming "coach potatoes" and plopping ourselves in front of the TV. Cold weather shouldn't be used as an excuse to slow down. Rather, the winter season is the perfect time to focus on

being fit and healthy.

There are plenty of exercises seniors can do in the comfort of their own home to improve strength, flexibility, and balance. Some ideas are "chair aerobics," toe raises at the kitchen counter, or using a

treadmill for cardio if you have one. If you're looking to get out of the house, join a mall walking club. And don't worry; if you haven't begun an exercise program, it's never too late to start. Just be sure to take it easy when beginning and be sure to check with your doctor first.

Wishing you good health and happiness. Please say a special prayer for our men and women in the Armed Forces.

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Pennsauken EMS Billing Frequently Asked Questions



Information Provided By Pennsauken
Emergency Medical Services

Pennsauken Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is a fully paid squad, made up of full time and part time EMTs since 1995. In order to defray the costs of this service, Pennsauken EMS bills for all calls where a patient is transported to the hospital. Over the years, there have been several questions concerning our billing that we would like to address.

If I Call For An Ambulance, Will I Get A Bill?

Pennsauken EMS will only bill you if you are transported to the hospital. If you refuse transport to the hospital, or only require assistance in another way, you will not receive a bill.

Will You Still Transport Me If I Do Not Have Insurance, Or If My Insurance Does Not Cover An Ambulance?

Yes. We will never refuse to transport a Pennsauken resident based on whether

or not you have insurance. If you need transportation to the hospital in an emergency, we will always transport you.

If I Am Transported To The Hospital, Will I Get A Bill?

Yes. All patients transported to the hospital will receive a bill. We will make an attempt to obtain your healthcare insurance information from you at the time of transport or at the hospital once we have transferred your care over to the emergency department staff. If we are unable to obtain your healthcare insurance information, you will receive a bill in the mail.

If I Receive A Bill In The Mail, What Should I Do?

If you receive a bill in the mail, it means that we were unable to obtain your healthcare insurance information at the time of your transport, or your insurance company has not responded to us. If your healthcare insurance information is needed, please fill out the insurance section on the bill and mail it back to us. If your insurance company has not responded to our request, you may have to

call them and discuss the bill with them. We will bill your insurance company on your behalf.

I Sometimes Get A Bill Even After I Give You My Insurance Information. Why?

You may receive a notice from us stating that we have billed your insurance company on your behalf. Some insurance companies may send you a check directly. If this occurs, you must endorse the check and forward that check to us. Please make sure to read your notices carefully when you receive them.

My Insurance Company Paid Part Of The Bill. Am I Responsible For The Balance, Even Though I Am A Resident?

The only portion of the bill that you are responsible to pay is the co-pay portion. It is the same as when you go to your family doctor or pick up a prescription and there is a co-pay that you are required to pay. The co-pay that applies to our service is predetermined by your insurance company and you must pay that portion.

What Happens If My Co-Pay Is Too High Or I Have Trouble Paying It?

If you are having financial difficulties paying your portion of the bill, we will set up very reasonable payment options. These options are kept private between you and our billing staff. The EMTs that transport you are not involved in this process and will not know the payment options.

Why Does The Bill Say DM Medical Billing?

Due to the complexities of medical billing, we have contracted an independent billing company to handle them. DM Medical Billing is our third party contracted billing company. They are authorized by us to bill on our behalf. However, all decisions concerning medical billing still comes from Pennsauken EMS and DM Medical Billing must follow our decisions.

If I Have A Question Concerning My Bill, Who Should I Call?

Any questions concerning your bill should be directed to DM Medical Billing at (856) 784-3715. It is easier for them to answer your billing questions, as they will have all of your billing informa-

tion available.

We hope this answers any questions on how and why we bill. If you still have any further questions that you feel were unanswered, you may always call Pennsauken EMS and ask to speak with our in house billing coordinator at (856) 665-2323.

All Around Pennsauken

Editor: FRANK SINATRA

Deadline For News:

10th of the month

Write to

All Around Pennsauken

c/o Pennsauken Municipal Building

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Fax: (856) 665-2749

E-mail: aap@twp.pennsauken.nj.us

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GRAYMATTERS

Love, Being In Love, And A Love Of All Things Chocolate

By Judith Kristen, AAP Columnist

Happy Valentine's Day!

Valentine's Day!?! Weren't we all just enjoying our Thanksgiving turkey? It sure seems that way to me.

And before we know it, we'll be seeing the snow shovels disappear at Home Depot, replaced by spring flowers and 50 pound bags of manure; and a few months after that, Christmas ornaments will be decking the Hallmark store once again. Sure, why not? What else is July for?

It can't be just me, can it? I mean... seriously, doesn't time seem to be flying by faster for you too?

Well, that said, I think I should get to the business at hand here and talk about Valentine's Day before someone decides to speed that up too and next year they'll call it, "Happy 45 minutes left of what used to be an actual Valentine's Day."

Although I've been behaving myself and not overindulging in the food department as much as I used to, this does

not mean that there isn't a big box of yummy Valentine truffles with my name written all over it at Aunt Charlotte's.

I mean, since we're the only planet with chocolate, we might as well take advantage of it, right?

I love the whole LOVE thing. Let me count the ways: the decorative hearts gracing our front windows, magnificent roses, candlelight dinners, visions of cupid and his arrow, beautiful prose, lovely cards or hand-written letters from our loved ones, and a big box of yummy Valentine truffles from Aunt Charlotte's. I hope Andrew gets the hint by now...

So whatever it is that makes you feel all warm and fuzzy, all lovey-dovey, and chocolatey-chocolatey – I really have to stop this – I wish the best of it for you on this Valentines' Day.

And may the joy of it all last you far longer than my two-pound box of truffles.

Happy Valentine's Day, Sweethearts!!!

Peace and LOVE and all good things...

~Judy

DEATHNOTICES

Juan Perez, Longtime Resident

Juan Perez, 68, of Pennsauken, passed away on December 28, 2016.

Perez was the beloved husband of Isolina; devoted father of John, Stephen and Erik; loving grandfather of Alisson, Iliana, Alyssa, Marisa, Jordan, Sophia, Vanessa, and Kara; and great grandfather of Gabriella; son of Moncita Perez; and dear brother



Perez

of Gladys, Lourdes and the late William. He is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, and friends.

Visitation was held on Jan. 3 at Inglesby and Sons Funeral Home in Pennsauken. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Jan. 4 at St. Peter Roman Catholic Church in Merchantville. Interment followed at Lakeview Cemetery in Cinnaminson.

Helen Irwin, School District Employee

Helen P. Irwin, age 74 of Pennsauken, passed away on January 20, 2017 after a brief and sudden illness. She was born February 7, 1942 in Yeadon, Pa. She is predeceased by her parents, Stephen Pazuk and Helen Pazuk-Ahlborn; and her niece, Kathryn Pazuk Naficy.

Helen is survived by her husband Charles "Corky" Irwin and children, Beth (Dennis), Charles (Lisa) and Michael (Megan); six grandchildren and three great grandchildren. She was the beloved sister of Stephen (Beverly); Helen is also survived by her niece, Cynthia; nephew, Sam; one great niece and one great nephew.

Irwin was a resident of Pennsauken for 50 years. She retired as the superintendent's secretary for Pennsauken schools after over 30 years of dedicated service. Helen will be truly missed by all that knew her.

Helen's visitation and funeral were held on January 28, 2017 at Mary, Queen of All Saints Parish, Church of St. Cecilia, in Pennsauken. Interment followed at Sts Peter and Paul Cemetery in Springfield, Pa.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Kathryn Naficy Pancreatic Research Foundation at www.Naficymemorial.com.



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inSchool

Spring Semester In Pennsauken Off To A Great Start

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

By Dr. Ronnie Tarchichi, MEd2., M.S.,
M.B.S., Superintendent, Pennsauken
Public Schools

February and the spring semester is upon us. We have had a wonderful and diligent school year thus far. Thank you to the administrators, teachers, parents, and students for their hard work during the New Year. I encourage everyone to stay upbeat and positive as we approach this semester and standardized testing. Let's show our students that there is no

mountain too high for them to climb, either physically or academically.

Standardized testing is simply part of the academic process; with hard work, they will reap what they have sown. If our students apply themselves, there is no task they cannot accomplish. David Bly stated "striving for success without hard work is like trying to harvest where you haven't planted." I am very proud of our students, parents and educators who work hard for the success of Pennsauken students. Please remem-

ber that for the success of our school district and township, it is necessary to work together in a positive and productive fashion. Please keep an eye out for notices regarding information sessions for both parents and students to see what Pennsauken will be offering in the coming months, both academically and athletically at all levels.

High School

Our high school has been running like a clock since the beginning of the school year. Block scheduling has opened up new academic opportunities for students, positively changing the culture of the building. Our teachers have shown the importance of keeping students on task throughout the day and the importance of the content in a student's educational portfolio. Our teachers devote their time to extracurricular activities and spend countless hours in the school, promoting the importance of teamwork, devotion, loyalty, and fair play. Congratulations to Coach Tabb and the winter track team on their state championship. Special thanks to both our wrestling and basketball coaches for a great season

thus far. Academically, our transition to a high school with multiple academics and career and technical education programs continues to progress at a very proficient rate through multiple partnerships with colleges and universities.

Middle And Intermediate Schools

The Park Ave. campus is on the move. Phifer's principal, Mr. Honeyman, and the Intermediate School principal, Mr. Bonkowski, persist to efficiently join forces in order to offer our students a smooth transition from primary to secondary education. The teachers have shown incredible diligence in their efforts to teach the students the curriculum within the timeline of their pacing guide. Students have shown significant growth in their academics thus far. Special thanks to the coaches at the middle school level for teaching our students the fundamentals of the sports they love.

Elementary Schools

Our elementary schools have run very professionally since the beginning of the semester and continue their smooth operation. Students have grown

both academically and emotionally this semester, preparing them for the Intermediate School. I would like to thank Mrs. Harmon, Mrs. Lawrence, Mrs. Joyce, and Mr. Lewis for their diligence as building principals; as well as our supervisors, Mrs. Massey, Mrs. Schmitt, and Mrs. Plasky, for a commendable job as building administrators in our three smaller elementary schools, providing the leadership needed in those buildings. The teachers of our elementary students are very dedicated to their craft and educate our students excellently in order to reach their academic potential.

Spend Time With The Super

Please join me each month for "Coffee and Questions with the Superintendent" taking place on Thursdays before the Board Meetings (business meeting) from 5:00 to 6:55 p.m. This month's meeting is held on Feb. 23 at the Pennsauken School District's Central Administrative Office, 1695 Hylton Rd. This is a time where concerned parents or Pennsauken residents can come and ask questions regarding any topic within the school district.

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Intermediate Students Get Creative Before Winter Break

At the Intermediate School, fifth and sixth grade gifted students composed song lyrics to the tune of well-known holiday songs. After great preparation, the students went "math caroling" throughout the school for all to enjoy.

They sang:

- "Ratios are Fun," to the tune of "Jingle Bells"
- "Coordinate, Coordinate, Coordinate, Plane," to the tune of "Jingle Bell

Rock"

- "Deck the Quadrant," to the tune of "Deck the Halls"
 - "It's Beginning to Look a lot like Math Class," to the tune of "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas"
 - "The 12 Days of Math Class," to the tune of "The Twelve Days of Christmas"
- Hope everyone had a great "mathi-day!"



Fifth and sixth grade gifted students at the Intermediate School went "math caroling" before holiday break.

Roosevelt Kindergartners Learn About Three Kings Day

Ms. Ortiz welcomed kindergartners back from winter break with a surprising and exciting lesson on Three Kings Day. Students learned important information about the festivities; they also learned about the popular, "La Rosca" bread and enjoyed a read aloud bilingual book

"On Three Kings Day," by author Judy Zocchi.

At the end of the lesson, students created and decorated their own unique crowns and became "kings" for the day. ¡Feliz Día de Reyes!



Kindergartners at Roosevelt School got to be "kings" for a day as part of a lesson on Three Kings Day.

PENNSAUKEN SCHOOL NEWS

For further information about the articles or events published in the Pennsauken School News section of "All Around Pennsauken" please contact:
Nicole Roberts, Editor • nicole.roberts@pennsauken.net

Phifer's Winter Concert A Giant Success

On Dec. 21, Phifer Middle School musicians held their annual holiday concert to a packed auditorium on Park Ave. After months of preparation, the students, under the direction of conductors Dyan Conklin and Jack Franchi, shared the culmination of months of rehearsal for a nearly full auditorium of their families, Pennsauken community members, and Phifer faculty, as well as current and former students.

The concert was filled with a varied repertoire, ranging from more traditional classical and multicultural pieces to holiday favorites, featuring the school's curricular ensembles of seventh and eighth grade choirs, concert band, and orchestra, as well as the extracurricular jazz band, Phifer chorale, and spotlight singers.

The concert itself took approximately an hour and a half to complete. However, the Phifer music department spent nearly 140 hours in group rehearsal time – not including individual practice – to prepare for the event. During these 140-odd hours, students transformed into musicians; and musicians combine to make one true ensemble. How do these changes happen?

"The first step with most young singers is getting them confident in using their voice as part of the ensemble, listening to themselves and others around them, and building technique to take make them a success. Many students come to me with no singing experience but know they want to try singing. Over time, we work on breathing for singing, tone quality, and expression to better the musical experience for ourselves and our audience. Once our students achieve this sense of pride in their hard work, they're hooked and can't wait to move forward," said Ms. Conklin.

"The most work for instrumental students is the instrument itself," said Mr. Franchi. "You have these crazy, complicated pieces of wood or metal that are set up to be so precise and you have to know all of the different finger positions or how to aim your face muscles so that it's the correct note. No middle schooler is going to completely own their instrument. I still work on it myself. Every musician does."

For three months, the choruses and instrumental groups alternated between a day of group rehearsal and a day of

individual or sectional practice. Simple ideas, such as notes and rhythms, evolved into advanced musical concepts, such as phrasing, articulation, and emotional affect.

"It's more than just squiggles on a page. Sure, you can play everything technically correct, but nobody's going to stand up and applaud for pure accuracy," explained Mr. Franchi. "There has to be something else. There has to be beauty in it to make the audience connect."

"Performing is more than knowing how to do the music on stage," adds Ms. Conklin. "You know it so well you can't make a mistake. You could be sick, exhausted, missing people, whatever. Nothing's going to stop you from singing your best."

And, indeed, the performers were able to rise above illness, schedules, classes, sports, and all of the craziness of everyday life, to bring their best performances to the stage this December.

Ms. Conklin and Mr. Franchi would like to congratulate their musicians on an excellent performance and truly appreciate the tireless work of the students, the Phifer staff and faculty, and their families.

Fairytale Tea Party Held On February 25

Pennsauken High School's cast of the spring musical, "The Wedding Singer," will host a whimsical fairytale tea party on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Pennsauken High School cafeteria, 800 Hylton Rd. Some of your favorite fairytale characters and pirates will interact with guests and be available for

photo opportunities. Kids are encouraged to dress up like their favorite characters and enjoy games, sing-a-longs, other activities and more. Cakes, cookies, brownies, juice, tea, hot chocolate, and more will be served. Tickets will be sold at the door and are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 10 and under.

Senior College And Career Day A Success

Last month, Pennsauken High School held its sixth annual Senior College and Career Day. PHS alumni and local professionals spoke to our seniors about life after high school.

Students attended a variety of panels and learned about college, technical school, careers in the military, and more. Local professionals were also on hand to conduct mock interviews.

"There's no right path or wrong path from high school to where we're sitting today. You have to find your own path," says Athon Lyons, a Pennsauken High School graduate who broadened his horizons by enlisting in the Army and is now a solutions architect at Cisco Systems, Inc. "With that said, there are people along the



PHS alumni and staff discuss life after high school during the sixth annual Senior College and Career Day.

way who can help you get there."

A special thank you to all of the returning alumni who participated in this year's senior college and career day and the members of Pennsauken High School's staff who helped make this event possible.

Carson Students Celebrate Winter



The kindergarten classes at Carson School celebrated the holiday season by sharing festive songs. Students learned the words and movements and illustrated a picture of "Wintertown," a place where everyone shops at "Snow Mart" and eats at the "Ice Cafe!"

Board Of Education Business Meeting

Thursday, Feb. 23, 7:00 p.m.
1695 Hylton Rd.,
Pennsauken, N.J.
The public is invited to attend.



By the Pennsauken Board of Education: Nick Perry, President; Allyson Meloni-Scavuzzo, Vice President; Cheryl Duffy; Michael Hurley; Diane Johnson; Leona Moss; Jennifer Slattery; Orlando Viera; and JoAnn Young

Over the past several months, the Pennsauken Board of Education has been discussing various options to improve the efficiency of our monthly meetings. Recently, the Board has adopted two changes that we believe will

New Changes For Board Of Education Meetings

help us achieve this goal.

The first is a change in the meeting location and the second is related to the structure of our monthly meetings. Both changes are currently being piloted to allow the Board to determine if they are beneficial.

During the December 2016 Board of Education meeting, the Board approved a shift in location for our monthly meetings. All Board of Education meetings will now be held at the Pennsauken School District Central Administrative Office, located at 1695 Hylton Rd. Previously, only work session meetings were conducted at this location, while the business meetings were located in Room

327 at Pennsauken High School. We believe that the administrative office location allows for a more intimate environment for the purposes of discussion amongst the Board members, as well as improving the facilitation of communication with the public. Since this space is smaller, any Board meetings that require a larger venue, such as those meetings that include large awards ceremonies, will be held at another location to accommodate larger attendance. As always, the public will be informed of any changes in location if needed.

At the January reorganization meeting, the Board approved a motion to hold one monthly meeting. Historically, the Pennsauken Board of Education has conducted two meetings during each month. The first meeting, held on the third Thursday of each month, was the work session. This was an opportunity for the Board to discuss the agenda. The second meeting, held on the fourth Thursday of each month, was the designated business meeting. During this meeting, the Board would vote on all of the agenda items discussed during the previous week at the work session. The Board will now shift to only one meeting a

month, which will be held on the fourth Thursday. There were several reasons for this change. One meeting a month is much easier for members of the community to attend. It costs significantly less money for the school district to hold one meeting per month rather than two. Additionally, once monthly meetings allow time for important committee meetings of the Board. Because Board members have two scheduled meetings per month, as well as budget meetings, discipline hearings, and "special meetings," it is often difficult to schedule committee meetings as well. Having a simpler schedule allows the Board more flexibility in conducting its various other activities.

The once monthly meeting will include discussion of the agenda, as well as voting on the agenda items. As with all Board meetings, this meeting will include public comment as is required by law. The once-monthly meeting schedule is permitted by statute and is the meeting structure that is used by approximately half of all school boards in New Jersey, including Cherry Hill, Haddon Township, and Merchantville. This February will be the first month in which the Board will meet only once.

We understand that change is difficult and may not always produce the desired outcome. We are hoping that these changes increase the efficiency of the Board and improve the ease with which the public can communicate with the Board. However, we will review the impact of these changes and if they are not as efficient as hoped, we will make adjustments as needed. As always, we welcome any feedback regarding these changes at our monthly meetings. We advise all members of the public to visit our website at Pennsauken.net for our revised meeting schedule. Announcement of each month's meeting is also published in the All Around Pennsauken, Central Record, and Courier Post; in addition, the announcement is available at the Pennsauken Township Clerk's Office.

We thank the Pennsauken community for all of their support as we launch these changes.

Board Bit Of The Month

State law requires that Boards of Education meet, at minimum, once every other month.



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1 Large Cheese Pizza and 10 Buffalo Wings

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Villagio's 856-661-0909

Please mention coupon when ordering. Not to be combined with any other offer. Limited time offer.

3 Large Cheese Pizzas

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INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF**

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856.665.0442

or check out our website: www.rmdancers.com

Email: mclaughlindance@verizon.net



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OR EMAIL ALLAROUNDPENN@AOL.COM**

Longfellow Recognizes Student Achievement

It is with great pleasure that Longfellow Elementary School recognizes Nyla Taylor for her accomplishments in the New Jersey Orators Association.

The New Jersey Orators Association is a non-profit organization that teaches children ages 7-18 years the art of oratory. Located in Somerset, N.J., this program focuses on supporting, encouraging, and preparing children with the public speaking skills necessary for future suc-

cess throughout their lives. There are a total of 16 chapters in New Jersey and two in Pennsylvania. This organization has been uplifting children's confidence with this important skill for close to 30 years.



Taylor

This year, the South Jersey Chapter won first place in the state championship! Nyla was a part of this team and we are so proud of her accomplishments.

Students interested in becoming a part of this organization are invited to visit OratorsInc.org.

Congratulations Nyla!

All Aboard The Baldwin Box Train!



All aboard! Miss Schott's class at Baldwin used their imagination to make a train during their unit of boxes. The students enjoyed taking a "train ride" through the hallway to look at students' artwork from other classrooms.

Fourth Graders At Baldwin Make Resolutions

Every year, Mr. Hirshorn's and Ms. Vance's classes discuss New Year's resolutions. Students jot down the improvements that they will make, and volunteer to share them with the class. Read some of these phenomenal promises the students have made:

"This year, I will make a promise to everyone that I will focus on more important things like school, homework, and my education." – Jai'den

"This year, I promise to myself that I will get all A's on my report card. I want to have a good education." – Merari

"I'm going to bring up my grades. I don't want my mom to get upset." – Jade.

"This upcoming year, I will work on dancing. I want to win competitions for

dance." – Layla

"I want to help save all animals. I want animals to have the happy life we have!" – Jessilyn

"I promise to read more. I want to become an excellent reader heading into the fifth grade." – Adonijah

"I will always be truthful. I don't want people to think that I am dishonest." – Adriana

"I will do my homework every night!" – Sonia

"My work will be the best it can be!" – Justin

"I will study my math flashcards every night!" – Alex

Have a fantastic 2017!

Fourth Graders Vote For Classroom President

Just prior to winter break, the fourth grade students in Ms. Miller's class at Franklin Elementary presented a speech to run for classroom president.

The fourth graders have been learning about the government and the different roles of the three branches: executive, legislative, and judicial. As a culminating activity, students completed research as if they were running for classroom president, creating a slogan and offering reasons why people should vote for them. They also had to state if there was something they would change in the world.

Students presented their speeches to the class and parents were invited to come and listen. Almost a dozen parents attended the class presentation. Students were a little nervous, but they got up to present their speeches without any hesitation. Parents were excited and very proud to see their children up in front of a podium asking for their fellow students' vote.

Later that day, the students voted. Ms.



A student in Ms. Miller's fourth grade class gives a speech about why he should be voted in as classroom president.

Miller's 2016-2017 class president is Glen Yirenkyi. Congratulations to all students for their hard work on this special project!

Parent Involvement Night A Big Success At Franklin

Franklin School's Parent Involvement Night was one of the best attended. Learning stations included reading and math challenges in the library; web site practice in the computer lab; and art projects that integrated language arts, science and math in the art room. At the end of the evening, attendees enjoyed refreshments and a raffle drawing for prizes.

Thanks to all who attended!

The Comprehension Dice activity was part of a very successful Parent Involvement Night at Franklin Elementary.



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& THE BAND DIRECTOR, MR. NICK DENOFA
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Home Show
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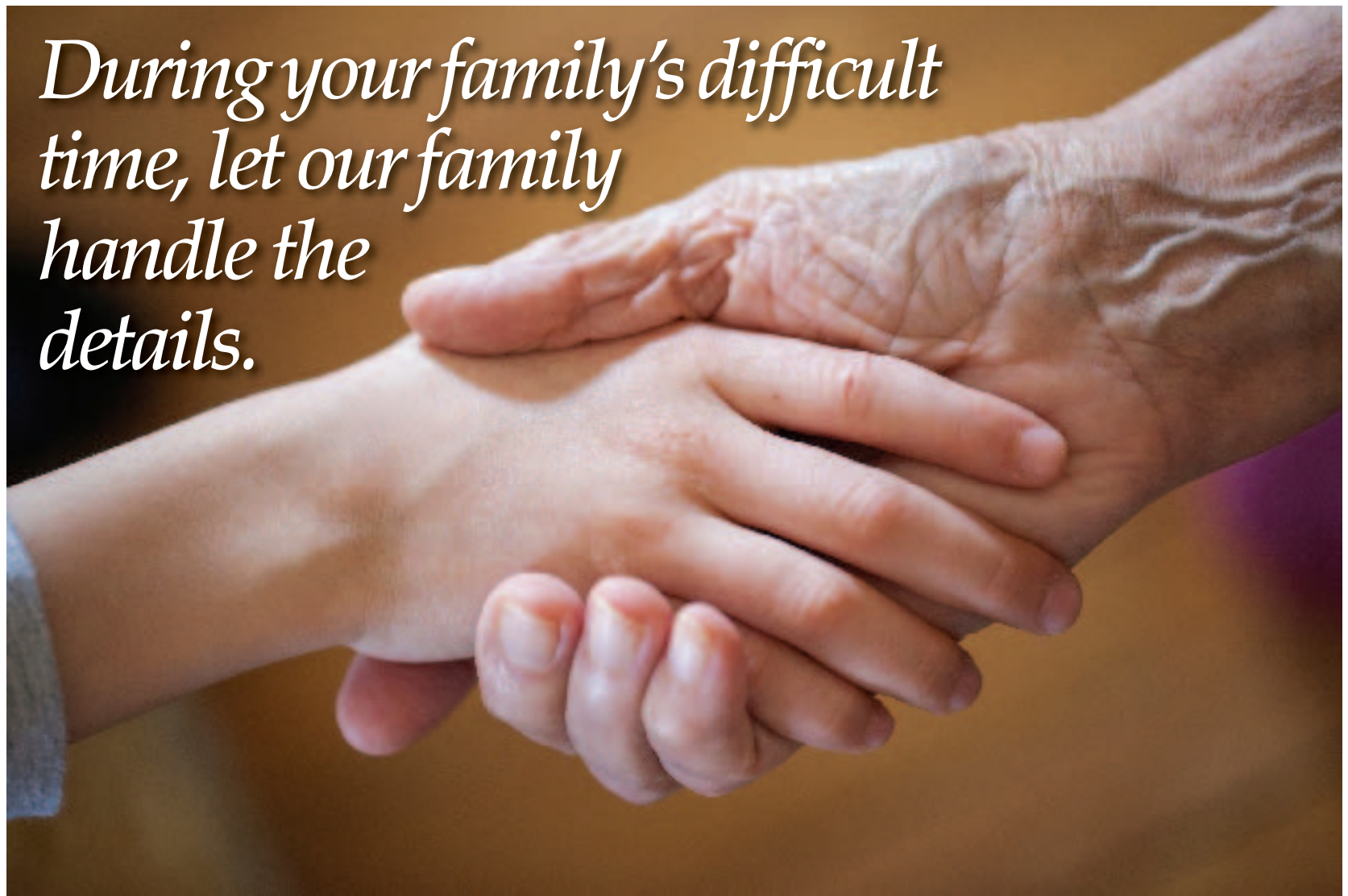
41 schools from all around New Jersey will
perform including Black Watch.
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Limit 1 per customer.



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Super A Bread Choice
of 20 oz Loaf,
12 oz Hamburger and/or
Hot Dog Rolls \$0.99

with coupon. Limit 3 per customer.



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Coupon valid from 2/1 to 2/28/2017

FRESH GRADE A
BONE IN
CHICKEN BREAST
\$1.29

with coupon. Limit 3 per customer.



6100 WESTFIELD AVE. PENNSAUKEN
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Coupon valid from 2/1 to 2/28/2017

FRESH BONELESS
PORK LOIN
(Half or Whole)
\$1.99

with coupon. Limit 10 lbs. per customer.



6100 WESTFIELD AVE. PENNSAUKEN
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Coupon valid from 2/1 to 2/28/2017

FRESH WHOLE
or
1/2 BEEF BACK RIBS
\$1.99 lb

with coupon.



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Valid at this location only.
Coupon valid from 2/1 to 2/28/2017

FRESH
YELLOW ONION
2 lb Bag \$0.59

with coupon.
Limit 1 per customer.



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FRESH
ICEBERG LETTUCE
\$0.99

with coupon.
Limit 1 per customer.



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Coupon valid from 2/1 to 2/28/2017

STORE BRAND
DELI TURKEY
BREAST
\$3.99 LB

with coupon.



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Coupon valid from 2/1 to 2/28/2017

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DELI GENOA or
HARD SALAMI
\$3.99 lb

with coupon.



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DELI MEAT
BOLOGNA
\$2.99 lb

with coupon.



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\$3.99 lb

with coupon.



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Coupon valid from 2/1 to 2/28/2017



FREE 1-Dozen Grade A Extra Large Eggs

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Educational Needs

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Essential Needs

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You for your sympathy and with
the help that you have provided.
I know that I will be able to
continue to push to regain my
stand on my finances.*

MAYBE WE CAN HELP!

Contact Pennsauken Neighbors Helping Neighbors
at 856-397-6282

or visit pennsaukenneighbors.org

Or pick up a grant application at the Pennsauken Public Library

CLERKS

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By Gene Padalino
Township of Pennsauken Clerk

Application for 2017 Dog Licences

Name of Owner _____

Address _____

Telephone No. _____

Cell No. _____ Number of Dogs at this address _____

Dog's Name _____

M/F _____ Dog's Age _____ Breed _____

Length of Dog's Hair (Circle one) SHORT MEDIUM LONG

Color and Markings _____

Altered (Circle one) Yes / No Date _____

Rabies Inoculation Expiration Date _____

As of Feb. 1 all dog license renewals are late and a \$10 late fee will be assessed.

FEES: \$12 if the dog has been spayed or neutered (altered)/\$15 if not spayed or neutered (altered). Renew by mail: fill out form and enclose a check or money order for the exact amount made payable to the Township of Pennsauken and mail it to Attn: Twp. Clerk's Office, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd. Pennsauken, NJ 08110. **Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope and copies for proof of rabies inoculation.** Renew in person between 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Township Clerk's office. Any questions please call 856-665-1000 x122.

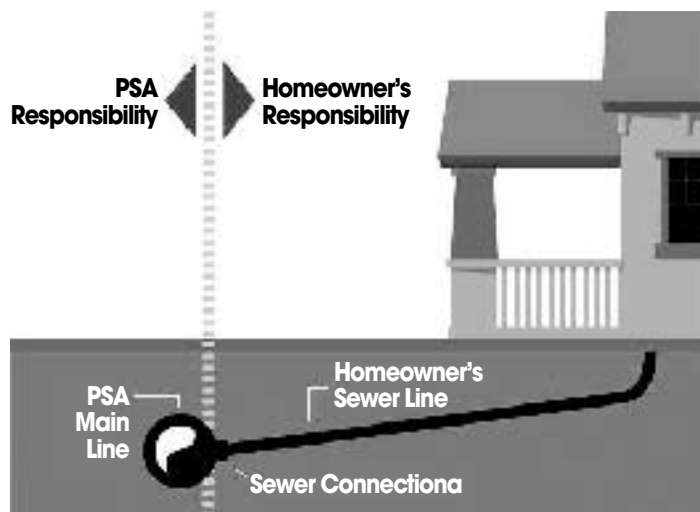
State regulations consider a dog's vaccination valid only if it DOES NOT expire before Nov. 1 of the current year and failure to obtain or renew a dog license could result in a court summons.



Pennsauken Sewerage Authority

1250 John Tipton Blvd., Pennsauken, NJ 08110

Phone: (856) 663-5542 • Fax: (856) 663-5718 • 24 Hour Emergency: (856) 662-0686



Important Customer Information

The Pennsauken Sewerage Authority is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the sanitary sewage collection system in our service area. The sanitary sewage collection system is made up of main lines, force mains and pumping stations.

The homeowner owns and therefore is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the lateral line from their dwelling up to and including the connection to the main line.

The rules and regulations of the Pennsauken Sewerage Authority require a back flow prevention device

commonly referred to as a "back check valve" be installed whenever plumbing fixtures are located below street level, such as in the basement. PSA strongly recommends all our customers have a back check valve installed to prevent contamination in the event of a main line stoppage.

The discharge of water collected in a sump pit to the sanitary sewage collection system is prohibited.

Cooking grease poured down the drain can cause a blockage of the lateral line. Please dispose of grease properly.

**REMINDER:
CHECK TO SEE
IF YOUR NEXT
PAYMENT IS DUE
THIS MONTH.**

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday to Thursday – 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.,
Friday – 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Please use mail slot located in our public entrance door to drop payments when the office is closed.

TO PAY YOUR BILL ON-LINE
VISIT OUR WEB SITE
AT WWW.PSEWER.COM
AND CLICK ON THE BILLING BUTTON –
ACH AND E-CHECKS \$1.05 CONVENIENCE FEE.
DEBIT/CREDIT 2.95% OF TOTAL PAYMENT.

If you are having a financial hardship and will be unable to pay your bill on time, or in full, please contact us at (856) 663-5542 to make payment arrangements. A simple 5-minute call could save you the inconvenience of being without water as well as the shut off fee which is currently \$75. Please do not send post dated checks to PSA without prior arrangements.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS Breaking Down Barriers Over Forty Years Ago

Pennsauken Police Officers Complete Command And Leadership Academy



Lieutenant Jim Hartnett and Sergeant Gerry Henkel of the Pennsauken Police Department, seen here with Lieutenant John Nettleton and Captain Thomas Connor, have completed the NJSACOP Command and Leadership Academy.

Lieutenant Jim Hartnett and Sergeant Gerry Henkel of the Pennsauken Police Department recently completed the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police's (NJSACOP) Command and Leadership Academy. By completing this intensive, demanding course, Henkel and Hartnett join fellow officers Lieutenant John Nettleton and Captain Thomas Connor, who are past graduates of the program.

In recognizing the challenges in law enforcement during the upcoming decades, the NJSACOP has made a commitment to be in the forefront of innovation and change. The primary component of that commitment is the development of future police leaders. The NJSACOP Command and Leadership Academy is a unique blend of theory and application designed to fulfill that mission.

In 1993, NJSACOP officials traveled to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point to work with the Academy's Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership to adapt the fabled West Point model of command and leadership to the needs of law enforcement. The result of this collaboration is the NJSACOP Command and Leadership Academy. Candidates with the greatest leadership potential are selected for this highly competitive program from all areas of the State.

Participants study, learn, and apply leadership as a science; behavioral and motivational theories; stress management and adjustment; individual communication and counseling; inter-group conflict management; and decision making in groups.

Due to the level of commitment required, candidates are required to be nominated by their agency head.

For more information, visit njsacop.org.

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

Brenda White Hailey's family has a history of doing big things. A member of the Powhatan Renape Nation, Brenda's grandfather moved to this area from Virginia in 1915. He was the owner of the legendary night club, the Dew Drop Inn, which used to reside on Derousse Ave. Her relatives helped to create the community of Morrisville; you know it today as the Delair section of town.

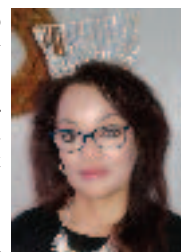
In the early 70's, Brenda did something pretty impressive too: she was crowned Miss New Jersey USA.

"I was a singer and a college student. I did a little bit of modeling at the time and the lady that I modeled for ran the program for the competition in this area," explains Hailey, who was an elementary teacher in Pennsauken for 34 years.

"I thought it was a good way to get money for my college education."

In 1971, she won the competition, becoming just the second African American to do so.

"When I entered the contest I was happy, but I did not really believe that I was going to win. It was a wonderful experience, I made many new friends," explains Brenda. "Being from a mixed background – I'm Native American,



Brenda White Hailey

Irish, and African American – I found some girls not so congratulatory.

"When I was in the Miss USA pageant, there was only one other person of color beside myself, Miss Nevada. I was extremely proud."

Brenda said the experience gave her the opportunity to do things she hadn't been able to before. It also did a lot for those that came behind her. "It opened doors for a lot of young women, who looked up to me as woman of color."

Today, Brenda is married to her husband, Michael, who also grew up in Pennsauken. She's a proud mother of two daughters, one son, and a step-daughter; and a dotting grandmother of four. Brenda sings and plays piano at

her church in Haddonfield; and is a member of her family's singing group, "The Hunter Singers." In addition, Brenda is a proud and active member of Theta Pi Omega, a chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority which does a lot of charitable work. And she continues to share a message of reaching for your dreams.

"Be true to yourself. If you believe in something, don't let anyone dissuade you. You have a voice: use it. Be proud of who you are."

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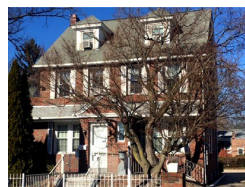
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Sale Pending!
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SOLD!
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MPWC WATERLINES

Adopt-A-Hydrant

The Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission, in conjunction with our local fire departments, is asking our communities to partner with us in our Adopt-A-Hydrant program.

In the event of a fire, the fire department needs access to water supply via the nearest hydrant as quickly as possible, so that the fire can be extinguished and prevent minimal loss of property and/or life.

By adopting a hydrant, you'll be helping everyone in your neighborhood, or surrounding businesses, and assisting fire crews. By keeping your adopted hydrant free of weeds and shrubs during warmer months and clear of snow and ice in winter months, you save the fire fighters pre-

cious minutes while fighting fires. When the hydrants are visible and accessible, everyone benefits.

Individuals can participate by adopting a hydrant nearest their homes. This is also a great opportunity for scouts, civic groups or individuals looking to earn community service hours.

If you've signed up to participate in our Adopt-A-Hydrant project, remember to send us your pictures! If you're clearing your adopted hydrant of snow or other debris, snap a photo so that we can share it on our Facebook page!

If you're interested in learning about the MPWC's Adopt-A-Hydrant program, please visit <http://mpwc.com/adopt-a-hydrant/> or e-mail hydrants@mpwc.com.



Estimated Meter Readings

The MPWC estimates meter readings when we have been unable to access your property to obtain an actual meter reading, when your remote device is not functioning properly, or if we are unable to get a signal from your new radio-read meter. Estimated readings can result in higher-than-usual water bills. When reviewing your quarterly bill, look for estimated meter

readings. If your meter reading has been estimated, the letter "E" will appear on your bill. An example is provided here.

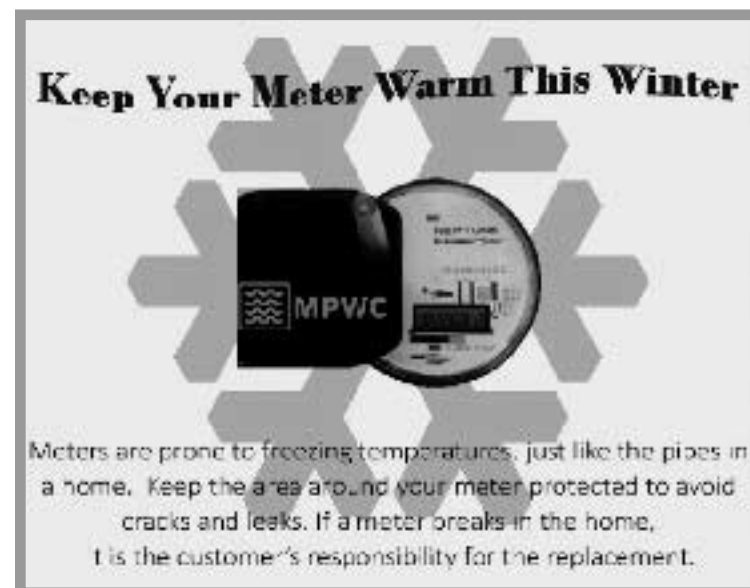
Please be aware that customers are responsible for paying bills in full by the due date, whether the reading is actual or estimated. If you receive a bill with an estimated meter reading, please contact our office right away. Our customer

support representatives will schedule an appointment to obtain a meter reading and to verify that your remote or radio meter is still functioning properly. It is important that you have your bill corrected prior to the due date in order to avoid unnecessary interest charges, overpayments or adjustments.

PREVIOUS READING		CURRENT READING		USAGE
01/15/09	1193E	04/15/09	1208E	15
UNITS	CODE	DESCRIPTION		AMOUNT

Five Tips To Prevent Frozen Pipes

- Keep the garage door closed (especially if the garage is attached to the house).
- During a deep freeze, keep the thermostat set to the same temperature day and night. Lowering the thermostat could cause pipes to freeze.
- If you're going out of town, drain the water system completely. Do this by shutting off the main valve and letting all the faucets in the home run until the system is empty (no more running water comes out of the tap).
- Check for and fill in holes or cracks in exterior walls and foundations to prevent cold air from coming into the walls.
- And remember to insulate and protect your water meter!



ATTENTION CUSTOMERS: The MPWC is on Facebook!

Looking for information about the water you drink? Where does it come from? How does it get to my home? Confused about how to read your water meter or calculate your bill? Do you want to learn more about the MPWC's ongoing infrastructure projects?

We've been working hard to keep our Facebook page populated with answers to our customer's most common questions. To learn more about your water service provider, just visit [facebook.com/TheMPWC/](https://www.facebook.com/TheMPWC/).

The Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission meets on the second Thursday of each month at 4:00 p.m.

These meetings are open to the public and are held at 6751 Westfield Avenue, Pennsauken.

Questions about your service?

Call 663-0043 Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., emergencies – call 663-0045 anytime.

MERCHANTVILLE – PENNSAUKEN WATER COMMISSION
6751 Westfield Avenue, Pennsauken, NJ 08110, 856-663-0043 www.mpwc.com

Mr. Joseph Scavuzzo, President

Mr. Patrick Brennan, Vice President • Mr. G. Burton German, Jr., Treasurer
Mr. George Piperno, Secretary • Mr. Ronald Johnson, Asst. Secretary/Treasurer

Pennsauken Township: Old And New In 1892 continued from page 9

newly created Pennsauken to meet to determine the fair and proper division of property and debt among the two municipalities. David Horner and Charles Scott were appointed as those commissioners; Gottlieb Mick was temporarily appointed Township Clerk; and Franklin Horner, William Mercer and Frank J. Burr were appointed to the temporary Township Committee, all pending the first town meeting within 60 days.

The act even prescribed the location of the first town meeting, to be held at the residence located at Westfield Ave. and Cove Rd. This neighborhood was known at that time as Bethel, after the Bethel M. E. Church and its adjoining cemetery located there. The church would relocate within a few years, literally moving its frame building down Westfield Ave. to 39th St. Township Committee meetings would continue to be held at Bethel, however, for many years, in rooms rented from the church at a cost of \$100 per year.

Following the legislative creation of Pennsauken Township, the first township meeting was held on March 24, 1892. On that date, the first election for Township Committee resulted in William Mercer, Nathan Cowan, and Samuel Moseley taking their seats. As chairman of the Committee in 1892, Samuel Moseley may be considered the first mayor of Pennsauken,

despite the extremely limited role of the Township Committee in that time. The municipal laws of New Jersey were not finally revised to give increasing powers to township committees until 1899.

An indication of the novelty of self-government for the rural citizens of the new township removed from the more urban Stockton: it is reported that at the first township meeting, the subject arose of spreading gravel on certain roads of the township. After much discussion, a large sum was appropriated for the purpose followed by a motion to "rescind." Distrustful and unfamiliar with the difference between "rescind" and "re-cinder," a farmer in the assembly objected to the motion to rescind on the grounds that gravel was far superior to cinders for finishing a road. Efforts to correct the misunderstanding became acrimonious and reportedly resulted in adjournment until a dictionary could be consulted."

The creation of the municipal entity known as Pennsauken 125 years ago was a making new of the old, as one of the earliest names for our communities was adopted for its new incarnation. While a new sense of distinct identity soon arose, the life of the community changed more slowly. Our next column will give a taste of life in "Pennsauken" Township in its year of creation.

Sources and suggested further reading for this column include: contemporary newspaper accounts in the Camden Courier, Palmyra Weekly News, and others; "Our Pennsauken," Jack Fichter, illustrated by Edmund Halber, The Pennsauken Bicentennial Commission, 1975. "A History of the Bethel Methodist Church," prepared on the occasion of the church's 125th anniversary by Mr. Samuel H. Wyatt, February 18, 1968; and Pennsauken Township archives.

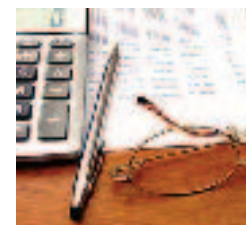
Public Discussion On Proposed Green Acres Grant Held On February 6

Please accept this as notification in accordance with the "Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act" and N.J.A.C. 7:36-12.2 (c) that the Mayor of the Township of Pennsauken will hold a hearing for public review, discussion and comment on a Green Acres grant application for the proposed Delaware Gardens River View Renewal Project, located at 49th St. and River Rd. on Monday, February 6, 2017, 4:30 p.m. at the Pennsauken Township Municipal Building, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd., Pennsauken, N.J. 08110.

This hearing will be held as a requirement for this Green Acres grant application.

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GAMES BEGIN 7:00PM
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February Events at the Library

- **AARP Tax Help** – Wednesdays & Thursdays, Feb. 1-2, 8-9, 15-16, 22-23; 1:00- 4:00 p.m. This free service will be available in the Community Room on a first-come, first-served basis. Priority is given to seniors. Please note the following documents are required: last year's tax return, photo identification, and social security card.
- **Health Insurance Marketplace Special Enrollment** – Fridays, Feb. 3, 10, 17, & 24; 3:00-5:00 p.m. Throughout the year, appointments are available for those who would like to investigate their eligibility for Medicaid or CHIP, or for those who have had qualifying changes to their health insurance (such as losing

your job, getting married, having a baby or having a death in the family). You must make an appointment to meet with the Health Care Navigator. Please call (877) 922-2377 to make an appointment.

- **Library Board Meeting** – Monday, Feb. 27; 6:00 p.m. The governing body for the Pennsauken Library. Each month the members meet to review current issues, budget, policies and staffing. The community is encouraged to attend these meetings.

For Children Accompanied By Their Caregivers:

- **LEGO Club** – Tuesdays, Feb. 14 & 28; 4:30-6:30 p.m. You bring the creativ-

ity and imagination and we supply the LEGOs and DUPLOs (for use in the Library only).

- **Toddler Movement** – Saturdays, Feb. 4, 11, 18, & 25; 10:30 a.m. For ages 3-5. Join Miss Sabrina and Miss Susan for a fun and active time of music and guided movements.
- **Baby Ballet** – Saturdays, Feb. 4, 11, 18, & 25; 11:00 a.m. For ages 3-5. Join Miss Sabrina and Miss Susan for a fun and active time of music and dance.
- **Storytime** – Mondays, Feb. 6, 13, & 27; 11:00 a.m. and Thursdays Feb. 2, 9, 16, & 23; 1:00 p.m. For ages 0-5. Miss Susan and Miss Sabrina welcome you to a fun-filled time of stories, songs, and a craft.

Blind Date With A Book

It's February and Valentine's Day is around the corner, so let's all have some fun! If you're looking for a date this month, how about the Library? We have "blind dates" waiting for you; and they're free to all who have a valid library card.

Here's how it works: find the "Blind Date with a Book" display by the Reference Desk. The display includes a mixture of fiction and nonfiction titles, with a blend of genres and writing styles. Each

wrapped book has a "personal ad" attached to it. If you like what you "see," take it home and unwrap it. Spend some time getting to know your "date." Then, come back for another date and another and another. On the back of the book's personal ad is a "Rate Your Date" card. Fill it out and return it to the Reference Desk to be entered in a raffle for a "lovely" prize at the end of the month.

Happy Valentine's Day!

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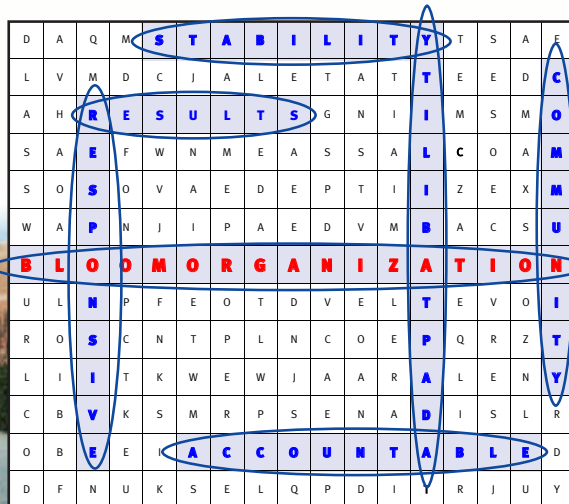
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An Essay For Black History Month: The First Minority Family In Meadowbrook

Special Submission by Bette L. Butler

My husband, Kenneth Butler, DDS and I were the first African-American couple to purchase a home in the Meadowbrook section of Pennsauken.

Ken was born and raised in Pennsauken and attended Merchantville High School. I was born in Camden and raised in historic Saddlestown, located in Haddon Township.

After dental school at Howard University, Washington, D.C., Ken served as a dentist in the U.S. Air Force for more than eight years, eventually leaving with the rank of captain to return to New Jersey and begin a private practice in Burlington. We had issues with the purchase of a home there, but eventually purchased a different home than the original we desired.

Most of Ken's patients were from the Pennsauken/Merchantville area. His best friend and former classmate from Merchantville High School, George Dempsey, called and informed Ken that

a physician's home/office was on the market. I called the owner directly and made an appointment to see the home. Since the owner did not realize that I was African-American, Ken and I made a decision to make an offer on the house without him seeing it. We contacted our friends, the late Dr. and Mrs. Beideman, who were members of the Burlington County Human Relations Council, who offered to assist us.

The Beidemans saw the house and made an offer to purchase it. Their offer was accepted and upon the closing, my husband and I joined them; the Beidemans stated that they were representing us as the buyers. The deed was placed in our names and we moved in shortly thereafter. At the time, we had two elementary age children, Barry and Patti; and after a chat a chat with Mrs. Althea Gardner, the first African-American principal of Benjamin Franklin Elementary, she convinced me to enroll our children in the school.

Within a few weeks, our neighbor who had welcomed us informed me that several families, including hers, had signed a petition to prevent the sale of the home to a minority family. After knowing us, she apologized and stated that she could not believe she had signed it.

After moving back to Pennsauken, one of Ken's classmates called and invited

him to a round of golf at Ramblewood Country Club. Ken accepted and they met at the club, but were told that it was a private club and Negroes were not allowed to play. Ken filed a complaint with the state's civil rights division and they found Ramblewood guilty of discrimination. Ken was to be enrolled on the same terms as other members, regardless of

race, creed, color, national origin, or ancestry. This ruling made it possible for other minorities to join and play there.

Dr. Butler was a prominent dentist in Pennsauken for 45 years and a member of Grace Episcopal Church Merchantville. He passed away in 2002 at the age of 70.



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Food Adventures: Kicking Off The Big Game With Great Meals

By Rachael Rivera, AAP Columnist

Happy February! I know all of the romantics out there are hustling to find the perfect romantic dining experience but, this article is NOT about Valentine's Day and all of its hearts and chocolates glory.

Are you ready for some football!?! The big game on the first Sunday in February is THE unofficial holiday for every football lover near and far; fans go above and beyond to feed the masses during huge parties. On Feb. 5, expect about 1.25 BILLION chicken wings to be eaten, along with 28 million chips and a couple million pizzas to be enjoyed. And while these are some of the more popular foods enjoyed during the big game, I know that each party will have its share

of funky, delicious treats. My own brother makes an insanely good taco dip, only rivaled by his buffalo chicken dip. Pulled pork and roast beef also make the list as big items during game day.

There are a few fantastic places, right on Westfield Ave., to acquire your game day essentials. Wild Wings Pizza & Grill at 4909 Westfield Ave. has a menu packed with popular items for your party. Places like Montegrillo's at 5825 Westfield Ave.; Macaro's at 6225 Westfield Ave.; or Eddie's II, located right next door to Macaro's, also serve up great options. La Hacienda, located at the corner of Merchantville and Westfield avenues, is a personal favorite of mine. Aside from serving all kinds of tacos, they have fresh

guacamole that will knock your socks off.

If you insist on skipping the house party scene and want to hit the bars and pubs, we have Bobby Ray's Tavern at the corner of Cove Rd. and Westfield Ave. They have tons of TVs inside and out, as well as a big deck; and for just \$25, you'll get two pitchers of domestic beer and a full buffet. A few blocks off of Westfield Ave. is the 45th Street Pub, which hosts specials all day as well.

For those looking for a place in town to celebrate Valentine's Day, the iconic Penn Queen Diner on Rt. 130 always has specials for you and your sweetie. There is also the Pennsauken Country Club on Haddonfield Rd., which is offering a wide variety of specials in and around Feb. 14. The Pub, found right off of Airport Circle, is another great option for a romantic meal.

Make sure to make your Valentine's Day reservations ASAP and enjoy your food adventures!

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PUBLICWORKS There's Always Time For Flowers... Chocolate... And Planning

By Joe Scavuzzo, Director,
Department of Public Works

In the U.S., 64 percent of men do not make plans in advance for a romantic Valentine's Day with their sweethearts. Although I will neither confirm nor deny whether or not this fact applies to me, I can report that the Public Works Department is in planning stages for this year's activities. While our annual budget proposal process has been completed, we turn to the late winter/early spring-time projects that are quickly approaching. Inclement weather can keep our crews unable to safely or efficiently operate. The "slow" days after snow has fallen and plowing is complete prevent us from taking a dead tree down or replenishing playground mulch in a park. We use this time to perform preventative maintenance services on our vehicles, equipment, and facilities.

This "off-season" attention is the result of a late-summer planning session that occurs between the crew chiefs and management. The newest and inherently beneficial part of this process is the input that the Public Works' office clerk provides as a result of interacting with our residents and the general public through e-mail and phone calls. We have been able to identify problem areas, such as overgrown "islands" on our local streets or along railroad tracks. Although these areas may not be the responsibility of the Township, proper

planning could eliminate the eyesore in a timely fashion while improving the look of Pennsauken.

A Word On Road Conditions

This is the time of year when water from basement sump-pumps that are ran to the curb start to freeze. This could be the cause of random "icy roads" around town, even when there has been no snow or rainfall. A call to the Department of Public Works at (856) 663-0178 can dispatch a truck to address unsafe street conditions.

Speaking of street conditions, we are entering the magical time of year where "potholes" pop up. One thing I do inform each resident or friend that approaches me regarding issues around town is that your Public Works Department cannot monitor the entire town every day, every week. Pennsauken is 12-square miles in area and our department has 22 field employees; there's just too much area to cover. We rely heavily on the residents and general public for information on pothole locations and other issues. We welcome a phone call or e-mail to our office and will respond after prioritizing safety issues first. Remember, potholes found on County Roads or State Highways can be reported online to Camden County or the New Jersey State Department of Transportation.

Dealing With Snow

I would like to offer a couple suggestions for the remaining weeks of winter that can make life easier during our snow plowing operations.

For those residents who have drive-ways: by placing vehicles in your driveway before snowfall begins, our crews can open each street "curb-to-curb," as they are instructed to. This avoids stretches of street not being plowed, as our dump trucks cannot maneuver between two parked vehicles. For those of you who have ever driven to Florida or any other long-distance road trip: imagine driving for seven or eight hours straight, with the occasional rest-stop activities, cautiously navigating a dark road while it's raining heavily or snowing. Now picture this: that entire time, with all that driving... you're still in the same section of Pennsauken that you started in! Having never plowed a street in town myself, I use this little story of mine to remind myself of the patience, attention, and thoroughness each of our drivers put into a snow storm plowing operation.

Depending on the amount of snowfall, we recommend waiting to shovel your driveway aprons. A rule of thumb is that plowing operations will not begin until four inches of the white stuff has accumulated on the street. That being said,

if it is supposed to snow for two days straight, similar to 2016's January blizzard, you should be prepared for two rounds of plowing.

Senior and Disabled Snow Removal

The Camden County Freeholder Board offers assistance to senior citizens and disabled residents who are unable to remove significant amounts of snow accumulation from their properties.

The County's snow removal program is available to help seniors and disabled individuals get out of their homes for necessities such as prescriptions or medical appointments. The program uses Camden County Correctional Facility inmates who are carefully screened, non-violent offenders who are guarded at all times on the job site by corrections officers. The program is an extension of the facility's road crew program. The snow removal program will go into ef-

fect only AFTER FOUR inches of snow have fallen on the ground in our area.

Calls for snow removal will not be taken until after it has stopped snowing. At that time, at-risk elderly and disabled residents can contact the Camden County Division of Emergency Management at (856) 783-4808 ext. 5060.

Work crews will be dispatched only after it has stopped snowing. The work crews will remove snow only during daylight hours from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Crews will respond to calls in the order they are received and will service as many residents as possible each day. There are no guaranteed times when the crews will arrive at a residence.

Senior and disabled residents must call after each substantial snowfall to request this service.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please reach us at (856) 663-0178 or e-mail at publicworks@twp.pennsauken.nj.us.

TALKIN' TRASH

THERE ARE NO "TRASH HOLIDAYS" DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY.

Trash and recycling collection, as well as yard waste and white goods pickup, remain on a regular schedule.

There are no special waste collection events scheduled for this month.

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inTown Photos From Pennsauken's Past



A group photo of the Pennsauken Giants baseball team, taken sometime in the 1930s.



Captain Taylor speaks to residents during a meeting of Pennsauken's Town Watch, circa 1994.

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Volunteer coaches from the Pennsauken Youth Athletic Activities, circa 1960. Two familiar faces in this photo are John Figueroa, current member of Township Committee; and Pennsauken's senior coordinator, Sonny DiSabato.

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Township Committee Holds Reorganization Meeting

continued from page 1

Judge Edward J. McBride, officiated.

"I'm humbled and honored to continue to work for you through Township Committee," says Mayor McBride. "I look forward to serving with you and with my colleagues as your mayor for 2017."

Jack Killion, who returned to committee after recovering from triple bypass surgery, was sworn in as deputy mayor by Superior Court Judge Louis R. Meloni.

"For the lovely people and the extended family in this room who sent cards, e-mails, and text messages, thank you so much," says Killion. "It means a lot. It really does."

Rick Taylor, who won re-election to Township Committee in November 2016, returned for the reorganization meeting after dealing with a very lengthy illness. He was also sworn in by Judge Meloni. Taylor also expressed his gratitude for the community's support.

"You know you've been away from home too long when the dog bites you," joked Taylor, during a speech filled with heart-felt gratitude and his signature humor. "I just want to thank everyone for their prayers. I do believe in prayer. I'm blessed."

John Kneib, who served on Township Committee for a decade, stepped down in December to replace Ed Grochowski as Pennsauken's administrator. To serve out Kneib's term for 2017, Bill Orth, a longtime Pennsauken resident who has served on Township Committee previ-

ously, was nominated to fill that seat. Judge Meloni conducted Orth's oath of office.

"I do want everyone to know how honored and humbled I am by this appointment and how thankful I am to my good friends who share the responsibility with me," says Orth. "I'll do my best to support not only you, but the community of Pennsauken, to which all of us are part of."

During his remarks, Township Committeeman John Figueroa offered his well-wishes to fellow members of committee, and offered a message of support to McBride, who is serving her first time as mayor.

"Betsy, congratulations on being mayor," says Figueroa. "I hope you have a good year and are blessed."

As Mayor McBride concluded her remarks, she laid out some of the work that Township Committee would be undertaking this year, such as continuing to "clean and green" Pennsauken, with particular focus on the Rt. 130 corridor, as well as preparations for the Township's 125th anniversary.

"As we start to celebrate our 125th anniversary, we need volunteers to be involved in events and engaged in public service, as we work to celebrate this year in the best way," explains McBride. "We need cheerleaders to stay informed and share with your neighbors, with your friends, with people outside Pennsauken about how proud you are. We all need to see your Pennsauken pride."

She also highlighted the new "Meet with the Mayor" initiative, where residents and business owners can schedule an appointment on Wednesdays to sit down with her and the Township's administrator.

"I encourage you and your neighbors to reach out to talk about your ideas and concerns. Make an appointment so we can talk," adds McBride. "The answer isn't always yes, but we do want to hear from you and do our best to serve you."

Board Of Education Holds Reorganization, Selects Leadership

The Pennsauken Township Board of Education held its reorganization meeting on Jan. 5. Ms. Amy Guerin, solicitor for the Pennsauken Township Board of Education, swore in Jennifer Slattery, who is serving her first-ever term on the board, as well as JoAnn Young, and Nick Perry, who were re-elected for a second term.

"I am very excited and honored to have been elected to the Pennsauken Board of Education," says Slattery. "I am confident that together with our excellent staff, great kids and families, and a motivated administration, that together we can do right by Pennsauken Schools."

"It's an exciting time to be involved with Pennsauken Schools," adds Young. "The board has worked hard over the

past few years. With the groundwork laid and a great staff in place, we believe Pennsauken will likely be the best school district in South Jersey in the near future for our families."

In addition, Nick Perry and Dr. Allyson Meloni-Scavuzzo were voted in as president and vice president, respectively.

"I'm honored by the trust and faith you have in me to serve as your president," says Perry. "We've accomplished

so many things. It's an absolute pleasure to work with you all, as we continue to serve the students and families of our community."

"I'm so grateful to I have the support and confidence of the Board members, as I serve as vice president for a second year," says Meloni-Scavuzzo. "I'm looking forward to continuing to work hard as a team to ensure the success of the Pennsauken School District."

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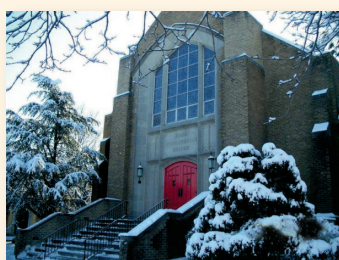
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AND/OR DONATE IF YOU CAN

Line up and start packing! We need at least 40 volunteers to give about two hours of their time to help assemble 10,152 meal packages. We'll be in the Church Gym from 7-9 p.m. The meals will be shipped throughout the world to support school feeding programs, orphanages, and crisis relief. The food is stored easily, transported quickly, and has a shelf-life of two years.



Come early or stay late: We also need as many people as possible to help set up starting at 5:30. We'll need people to stay after as well to help break down and pack up.

Everyone is welcome. There are tasks for people of all ages. Invite your friends and family too. It will be a great time of fellowship and doing something good for others.

Donate, please! We need to raise 29¢ for each meal – a total of \$2,944.

To donate, please make a note on your check or giving envelope and place in the offering plate.

Ready to help? If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact us by email at officefpc@comcast.net or call church office 856 662-6252. Ashes will be provided.

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FRIENDS of the LIBRARY Friends Of The Library Hold Second Annual Valentine's Day Cookie Sale

By Arlene Miller, Friends of the Pennsauken Free Public Library

February: a month to celebrate presidents and precedents. And while Presidents' Day gives many of us a well deserved day off, Valentine's Day is a tried and true old standard for lovers everywhere. Last year, the Friends of the Free Public Library added what we hope will soon become a February precedent for Valentine's Day aficionados: our second annual Valentine's Day Cookie Sale. On Saturday, Feb. 11, starting at 11:00 a.m., we'll fill up the tables in the Library's lobby with home-baked cookies, just in time for gift giving to all those special someones on your list. And at just one dollar a bag, you can fill a basket full of cookies. Come early, though. We usually sell out fast; and once they're gone, oh well...

Stress Reducing Seminar On February 11

While you're at the Library for the cookie sale, you'll want to stay for our free seminar, "Creative visualization and self-hypnosis to cancer patients and caregivers." Held on Saturday, Feb. 11 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. in the Community Room, Maggie Worthington, a licensed hypno-counselor and hypnotherapist, will teach techniques to reduce stress, the underlying cause of many illnesses and diseases, helping patients, caregivers and the general public as well to learn to live

stress-free lives. You can check out her website at HypnosisForStressNJ.com.

Valentine's Day Munch And A Movie

Another precedent, our monthly Munch and a Movie feature, falls coincidentally on Valentine's Day itself, Tuesday, Feb. 14, from 12:30 – 3:30 p.m. in the Library's Community Room. Last month's flick was "Wild," the amazing adventures of a woman's 1,100-mile solo hike to help her recover from addiction and get her life in order, starring Reese Witherspoon and Laura Dern. For February – although we can't be sure – an upbeat romantic comedy would seem in order to celebrate. Come and be surprised, or call ahead to the circulation desk for what's playing. Bring your lunch and we'll supply snacks and beverages.

Museum Passes Available

You might want to shake off any bouts of cabin fever by taking advantage of our Museum Pass program. There are plenty of indoor places to visit, like the Academy of Natural Sciences; Air Victory Museum; Garden State Discovery Museum; National Liberty Museum; Penn Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology; and Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. Or for you hardy souls who don't mind the chill, consider a tour of the Battleship New Jersey; Morris Arboretum; Paws Farm Nature Center; or the Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge. Interested? Library members can reserve a pass one hour in advance and pick it up at the circulation desk. You can keep it for four days and take along a varying number

of children and adults free of charge, depending on the location you choose. Find out all about the Museum Pass program, sponsored by the Friends of the Free Public Library, at Pennsauken-Library.org/news.cfm.

Art Show Runs April 23-30

Lest you forget, the Friends' annual Art Show is coming up April 23 – 30. Don't forget that with Pennsauken cele-

brating its 125th anniversary this year, there are all sorts of additional ideas close to home you might want to consider. "Art Week" activities and workshops are coming together as well; we'll have more definite information next month, so stay tuned and get busy creating!

In the meantime, grab your gloves, scarf and coat and come out to join us Wednesday, Feb. 8 in the Community Room for our next Friends meeting.

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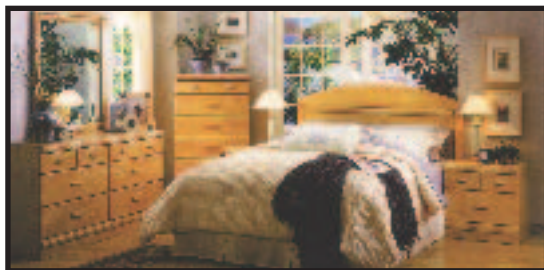


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Woman's Club Of Merchantville Holds Meetings In February

The Evening Membership Department of the Woman's Club of Merchantville will hold a special Valentine's Day meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 14 at the Merchantville Community Center, 212 Somerset Ave., at 7:00 p.m.

In addition, the Woman's Club of Merchantville will hold their monthly tea luncheon on Wednesday, Feb. 15 at the Merchantville Community Center. The luncheon begins at Noon and will be followed by a meeting and program with Harriet Levin Millan, author of "How Fast Can You Run: A Novel Based on the Life of 'Lost Boy of Sudan'"



The Evening Membership Department of the Woman's Club of Merchantville held a special quilting event at the Pennsauken Free Public Library. Pictured here is their youngest quilter, Christine Leek, assisted by her mother, Stephanie.

Michael Majok Kuch."

The Merchantville Woman's Club has been one of the leading service organizations in the region. Women from our community are members committed to making a difference. Among other things, the Club raises money for local and state charities and scholarships. Activities include monthly card and game parties; and members volunteer at the Food Bank of South Jersey and the Cathedral Kitchen.

To attend a meeting, or for more information, contact Jan at (609) 410-4650 or janwh@aol.com.

Missing A Wedding Ring?

A few months ago, a member of the Township's staff found what looks to be a gold wedding ring in the parking lot of the municipal building, located at 5605 N. Crescent Blvd. Since no one has inquired about it, we're hoping that this ar-

ticle might help reunite this piece of jewelry with its owner.

Did you or someone you know possibly lose a gold ring in the parking lot while at the Township's municipal building or the Pennsauken Free Public Library?

Stop by the Township's finance office or call (856) 665-1000 x165 for more information. We may just have what you lost. Please note that you must be able to provide specific details about the ring (design, color, etc.) in order to receive it back.

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PYAA SPORTS PYAA Soccer Holding Online Registration

PYAA Soccer is currently taking registration for the spring 2017 season. Pennsauken and Merchantville resident boys and girls are invited to join.

This year, PYAA Soccer will only be taking online registration. Parents and guardians can register their children by visiting PYAAsoccerNJ.com now through Saturday, Feb. 18. For players born on or after July 1, 2010, the cost is \$75 per child. For players born on or before June 30, 2010, the cost is \$90 per child.

Volunteer coaches and assistant coaches are needed for this upcoming soccer season. If you are available for one hour during the week to hold a practice and one hour on Friday evenings for the actual game, please let us know. If we can get more people involved, then

we can pair up individuals to help spread the responsibility. For more information, visit pyaasoccernj@gmail.com.

Cheerleading Squad Earns Second Place Win

Congratulations to the Junior High and 110lb. cheer squads for their second place win at the GT Cheer Competition! We're all very proud of all those who represented PYAA at this great event!

Baseball And Softball Registration Begins This Month

PYAA Baseball and Softball will have in-person registration ONLY on the following days at the PYAA Field House, 3501 Elm Ave., Pennsauken:
• Saturdays, Feb. 18, 25 and March 4,

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
• Sundays, Feb. 19, 26 and March 5,

12:00 to 3:00 p.m.
• Wednesday, Mar. 1, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

For more information, visit PYAA.net.



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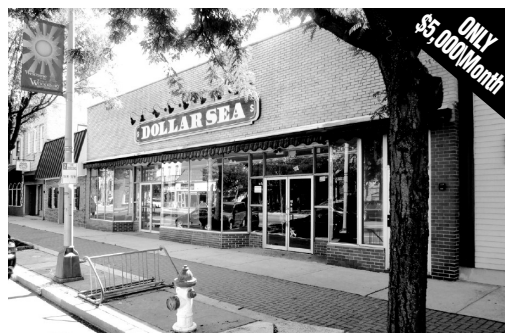
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